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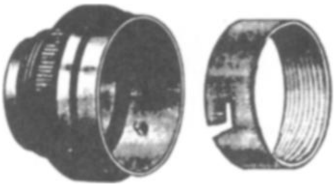
THE GRIFFITH MICROSCOPIST'S WORKING CABINET.

E. H. GRIFFITH, A. M., F. R. M. S., Fairport, N. Y.

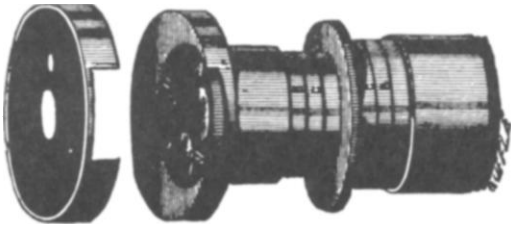
The greatest hindrance to the study of microscopy to those who are obliged to toil for daily bread, is the lack of time for work and the lack of room for the microscope, its accessories, tools, mounting materials, etc. The microscope is usually kept under lock and key in its case, its accessories in a separate box, and tools, mounting materials, etc., are scattered all over the premises. A full hour is often required to get everything that can be found unpacked and placed in order for an evening's work, and generally there are tools or materials needed which cannot be found at all when most desired. Those who reach home weary after a hard day's work and who devote an hour or two in getting ready to mount a few slides, and when ready are interrupted by some friendly neighbor who spends the rest of the evening, leaving nothing to do on his departure only to repack, will soon lose interest in the study of microscopy. Some years ago, while visiting Mr. Charles Fasoldt of Albany, N. Y., I noticed in the room a queer-shaped case, looking much like a short barrel with straight staves. Mr. Fasoldt opened the barrel nearly in the center, the front being supported by hinges, and in it I saw his microscope and lamp set ready for use. This device of Mr. Fasoldt's suggested the idea of a microscopist's working cabinet, and this one exhibited to-day is the result. In external appearance it resembles a medium-sized bookcase, and it is intended to be so finished that it may be placed in any room in the house as an ornamental piece of furniture as well as a thing for use. The central portion, with the flexible sliding door, is intended as the microscopist's work-shop. The side casings for the door, which are some five inches wide, hide two store-rooms, one on each side of the work-shop, and which have no communication with it. The doors of the store-rooms are the ends of the cabinet, and they are intended to open out from the back corners. At the top and at the bottom of the cabinet are drawers extending the entire length of the work-shop, and some four or five inches deep. The door of the central compartment may be a flexible, sliding one, which may be pushed up and back out of the way instantly ; or two narrow doors made to open out may be used, if preferred. The floor of the work-shop is a sliding shelf, which may be drawn out and supported by the drawer, if desired. On the left the microscope is set up out of the way ready for use, while at the right is the turn-table, both of which may be drawn out on the shelf. On small corner shelves, in the back, are the lamps. The back is a panel of plate-glass, which is the window. On each side, out of the way of the worker, are short shelves which hold the objectives, eye-pieces, section cutter, polariscope, and other accessory apparatus. Below these shelves, on one side, is rack-work for holding unmounted and newly mounted slides, while above the short shelves, near the top and out of the way, is one large shelf cut away in the center, which is intended for general storage. This shelf is the only one that is allowed to cross the central portion or work-shop, as nothing except the microscope and accessories is allowed elsewhere in this compartment, which is intended exclusively for the workman and his tools, to be always ready on opening the door, for immediate use. When interrupted, the workman may close the door and lock it, leaving everything ready for continuing his work on his return. The side compartments or store-rooms are furnished with six or more shelves each, with holes bored partly through them, for holding from ten to fifty bottles each. On the right hand are cements, reagents, staining fluids, test tubes, etc., etc., while on the left are bottles of diatoms, vegetable and animal sections, and materials of all kinds ready for mounting purposes. On the inside of the doors are tweezers, needles, small knives, pipets, etc., etc., held by loops. In the drawers at the top and the bottom are supplies of slides, cover-glasses, curtain rings, tools, etc., etc. The side store-rooms might easily have been arranged to communicate with the work-shop, but the arrangement would not be desirable for the reason that bottles might fall and injure the instruments. They might be arranged to swing in front like portions of the Wooton desk, but as few things are wanted at any one time little would be gained, while much would be lost in expense and in endangering the contents. This cabinet may be greatly improved, and it is presented with the hope that within the coming year some one will invent one still more practical. As it now is it cannot fail to be of great practical value to all lovers of microscopy who are able to make one similar.

THE GRIFFITH NOSE-PIECE.



The adapter has a short pin fitted on the inner surface of the cylinder, while the ring for the objective has a bayonet slot. The ring is as deep as the Society-screw to the objective, allowing it to be put into the box with the latter.

THE GRIFFITH EYE-PIECE.



This eye-piece combines three or more eye-pieces in one. The eye-lenses are set in a revolving disk as shown in the cut, while the adjustment of the field-lens for the different powers is accomplished by draw tubes, the field-lens being fitted to the outer tube.